



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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05/19/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 MAY 19, 2011 MEETING

SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON
 Senior Center

In attendance: Ken Bell, Shelly Dein, DeAnne Dupont, Russell Goettel, Elizabeth Karpati, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Charlotte Milan, Laura Notman, Lynn Reis, Scott Samenfeld, Michael Wolfson.
 Facilitator: Charlotte Milan Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: Wed. June 15, Th. July 21, Wed. Aug. 17, Th. Sept. 15, Wed. Oct. 19,
 Th. Nov. 17, Wed. Dec. 14; 7:30 p.m. in Senior Center, Ground Floor.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as presented.

Bus shelters: meeting on June 9, 6:30 p.m., in the Selectmen's Hearing Room.

PAYT: there is now a substitute motion calling on the Selectmen to implement PAYT if the override vote scheduled for June 7 fails.

MCAN's new strategic direction is to operate by helping to connect people and groups working on the same goals and helping them to find resources---e.g. by hosting a calendar where such groups can post their events.

MCAN is also campaigning to get people to sign up for energy audits (subsidized by the state). The goal for Arlington is 150 families by the end of June. Charlotte and DeAnne have been going door to door, could use some help. Laura suggested offering a presentation at the Senior Center.

Energy Working Group:

The Town is exploring changing streetlights to LEDs, is testing some in front of the Masonic lodge on Academy Street.

The use of gas for heating Town buildings was down although degree-days were up (through end of March), probably due to replacement of boilers and steam traps at the high school; but electricity use was up.

A 3.5KW PV system has finally been installed at the Ottoson School. Every Town building is being evaluated for suitability for PV, and 14 have been found so far.

The Steering Committee decided to let the Website Committee take the lead on strategizing for getting our message out. The Arlington Center for the Arts is willing to help us set up a Facebook page.

The recent Sunlight Solar presentation drew about a dozen people, mostly nonmembers.

The composting survey drew about 550 responses; results to be discussed with DPW. Lexington is starting the permitting process for an anaerobic digester (to make gas from compostables) -- maybe Arlington could join. The state is considering banning food waste from trash in a few years.

The new habitat garden at the Reservoir was installed on April 30 and is being tended by Res Committee volunteers; more planting and mulching are to follow. The planned rain garden will be located in Spy Pond Park. DPW will help with some heavy work as it did at the Res.

Our year-long focus on water will end in the fall. Could the "Climate Summer" group coming in July be involved in some water-related project? Gail asked for help in coming up with ideas. Anyone willing to meet on this subject should notify Charlotte.

We have been asked to take a larger role in planning EcoFest 2012 since Ruth Yanetti is retiring. But we would want to have the Town continue dealing with vendors.